

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the SECURE Act of 2010—Supporting Employee Competency and Updating Readiness Enhancements. This bill would help to improve inadequate security at too many of our Federal buildings.

As a Nation, we have learned several hard truths: Terrorists are intent on attacking the United States, and their tactics continue to evolve. The early identification of a security gap can save countless lives if we act promptly to close it. There is no substitute for pre-emptive action to detect, disrupt, and defend against terrorist plots.

As we remember the lives lost when terrorists attacked the United States 9 years ago, we must avoid complacency. Our country's defenses must be nimble, multi-layered, informed by timely intelligence, and coordinated across multiple agencies.

This is difficult work, requiring painstaking attention to detail and an unwavering focus. We must remain vigilant to the threats we face. Unfortunately, the evidence indicates that there are significant security problems at Federal buildings, where thousands of employees serve thousands more of our citizens every work day.

The Federal Protective Service, FPS, is charged with securing nearly 9,000 Federal facilities and protecting the government employees who work in them, and the Americans who use them to access vital services.

But, independent investigations by the Government Accountability Office and the Department of Homeland Security Inspector General have documented serious and systemic security flaws within the operations of the FPS. These lapses place Federal employees and private citizens at risk.

In June of last year, for example, GAO's undercover investigators smuggled bomb-making materials into 10 Federal office buildings. Every single building GAO targeted was breached—a perfect record of security failure. At each facility, concealed bomb components passed through checkpoints monitored by FPS guards. Once inside, the covert GAO investigators were able to assemble the simulated explosive devices without interruption.

A July 2009 GAO report documented training flaws for FPS contract guards, some of whom failed to receive mandatory training on the operation of metal detectors and x-ray equipment. Other contract guards were deficient in key certifications such as CPR, First Aid, and firearms training. All told, GAO found that 62 percent of the FPS contract guards it reviewed lacked valid certifications in one or more of these areas.

This review also found that FPS did little to ensure compliance with rules and regulations and failed to conduct inspections of guard posts after regular business hours. When GAO investigators tested these posts, they found some guards sleeping on an overnight shift.

In another example, an inattentive guard allowed a baby in a carrier to pass through an x-ray machine on its conveyor belt. That guard was fired, but he ultimately won a lawsuit against the FPS because the agency could not document that he had received required training on the machine.

A few months earlier, in April 2009, the Department of Homeland Security's Inspector General also found critical failings in the FPS contract guard program. The Inspector General's recommendations included many concrete steps to strengthen contract guard performance, such as improving the award and management of contracts and increasing the amount of training and number of compliance inspections.

These reports demonstrate that American taxpayers are simply not receiving the security they have paid for and that they expect FPS to provide. The reports also show the vulnerabilities facing Federal employees and Federal infrastructure because of lax security.

While shining a light on these failings in multiple hearings, our Committee pressed the FPS to take action to close these security gaps. Although some tentative steps have been taken by FPS, we can no longer wait for OMB and DHS to implement the absolutely critical security measures necessary to help protect our Federal buildings, our Federal employees, and the American public.

The legislation that I introduce today, with Senators LIEBERMAN, AKAKA, and VOINOVICH, would help close these security gaps at our Federal buildings.

First, the bill would mandate the Interagency Security Committee, which was established by Executive Order 6 months after the Oklahoma City bombing, to increase security standards at Federal facilities. The ISC, comprised of representatives from agencies across the government, would establish risk-based performance standards for the security of federal buildings. FPS would then enforce these requirements based on the risk tier assigned the facility by the ISC.

Prior reports clearly demonstrate that FPS lacks authority to require tenant agencies of a Federal facility to comply with recommended security countermeasures.

For example, although FPS may ask tenant agencies to purchase or repair security equipment like cameras and x-ray machines, based on the ISC's recommended security countermeasures, these tenant agencies can refuse to purchase or repair the equipment based on cost.

Since FPS has no enforcement mechanism, these machines are not upgraded, or remain inoperable, and security suffers. With so much at stake, tenant agencies should not be able to effectively overrule the security experts on the ISC and at FPS.

To address this problem, our legislation would provide FPS the authority needed to mandate the implementation of security measures at a facility. FPS also would have the authority to inspect federal facilities to enforce compliance.

The bill would allow the FPS Director to charge additional fees if tenant agencies fail to comply with applicable security standards. In such cases, the Secretary also must notify Congress of the non-compliant facilities.

Our bill also would require an independent analysis of FPS's long-term staffing needs.

The Government has an obligation to protect our Nation's security, and our Federal buildings are targets for violence. This legislation would provide FPS with stronger authority to improve security at our Federal buildings. The American public that relies on these facilities and the Federal employees who work in them deserve better and more reliable protection.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 630—DESIGNATING NOVEMBER 28, 2010, AS “DRIVE SAFER SUNDAY”

Mr. ISAKSON (for himself, Mr. CHAMBLISS, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 630

Whereas motor vehicle travel is the primary means of transportation in the United States;

Whereas every individual traveling on the roads and highways needs to drive in a safer manner in order to reduce deaths and injuries that result from motor vehicle accidents;

Whereas according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, wearing a seat belt saves more than 15,000 lives each year;

Whereas the Senate wants all people of the United States to understand the life-saving importance of wearing a seat belt and encourages motorists to drive safely, not just during the holiday season, but every time they get behind the wheel; and

Whereas the Sunday after Thanksgiving is the busiest highway traffic day of the year: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) encourages—

(A) high schools, colleges, universities, administrators, teachers, primary schools, and secondary schools to launch campus-wide educational campaigns to urge students to be focused on safety when driving;

(B) national trucking firms to alert their drivers to be especially focused on driving safely on the Sunday after Thanksgiving, and to publicize the importance of the day through use of Citizen's Band (“CB”) radios and truck stops across the Nation;

(C) clergy to remind their members to travel safely when attending services and gatherings;

(D) law enforcement personnel to remind drivers and passengers to drive safely, particularly on the Sunday after Thanksgiving; and

(E) all people of the United States to use the Sunday after Thanksgiving as an opportunity to educate themselves about highway safety; and

(2) designates November 28, 2010, as "Drive Safer Sunday".

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 4619. Mrs. HUTCHISON (for herself and Mr. CORNYN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 3454, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2011 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4620. Mr. LEVIN (for Mr. DURBIN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 624, to provide 100,000,000 people with first-time access to safe drinking water and sanitation on a sustainable basis by 2015 by improving the capacity of the United States Government to fully implement the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005.

SA 4621. Mr. WEBB (for himself and Mr. WARNER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3454, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2011 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4622. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3454, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4623. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5136, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2011 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4624. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3454, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2011 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4625. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3454, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 4619. Mrs. HUTCHISON (for herself and Mr. CORNYN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 3454, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2011 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of division C of the bill, insert the following:

TITLE —EDUCATION JOBS FUND

SEC. 1. ELIMINATION OF PROVISIONS RELATING TO TEXAS.

Section 101 of Public Law 111-226 (124 Stat. 2389) is amended by striking paragraph (1).

SA 4620. Mr. LEVIN (for Mr. DURBIN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 624, to provide 100,000,000 people with first-time access to safe drinking water and sanitation on a sustainable basis by 2015 by improving the capacity of the United States Government to fully implement the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005; as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted, insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Senator Paul Simon Water for the World Act of 2010".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-121)—

(A) makes access to safe water and sanitation for developing countries a specific policy objective of United States foreign assistance programs;

(B) requires the Secretary of State to—

(i) develop a strategy to elevate the role of water and sanitation policy; and

(ii) improve the effectiveness of United States assistance programs undertaken in support of that strategy;

(C) codifies Target 10 of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals; and

(D) seeks to reduce by half between 1990 (the baseline year) and 2015—

(i) the proportion of people who are unable to reach or afford safe drinking water; and

(ii) the proportion of people without access to basic sanitation.

(2) On December 20, 2006, the United Nations General Assembly, in GA Resolution 61/192, declared 2008 as the International Year of Sanitation, in recognition of the impact of sanitation on public health, poverty reduction, economic and social development, and the environment.

(3) On August 1, 2008, Congress passed H. Con. Res. 318, which—

(A) supports the goals and ideals of the International Year of Sanitation; and

(B) recognizes the importance of sanitation on public health, poverty reduction, economic and social development, and the environment.

(4) While progress is being made on safe water and sanitation efforts—

(A) more than 884,000,000 people throughout the world lack access to safe drinking water; and

(B) 2 of every 5 people in the world do not have access to basic sanitation services.

(5) The health consequences of unsafe drinking water and poor sanitation are significant, accounting for—

(A) nearly 10 percent of the global burden of disease; and

(B) more than 2,000,000 deaths each year.

(6) Water scarcity has negative consequences for agricultural productivity and food security for the 1,200,000,000 people who, as of 2010, suffer from chronic hunger and seriously threatens the ability of the world to more than double food production to meet the demands of a projected population of 9,000,000,000 people by 2050.

(7) According to the November 2008 report entitled, "Global Trends 2025: A Transformed World", the National Intelligence Council expects rapid urbanization and future population growth to exacerbate already limited access to water, particularly in agriculture-based economies.

(8) According to the 2005 Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, commissioned by the United Nations, more than 1/3 of the world population relies on freshwater that is either polluted or excessively withdrawn.

(9) The impact of water scarcity on conflict and instability is evident in many parts of the world, including the Darfur region of Sudan, where demand for water resources has contributed to armed conflict between nomadic ethnic groups and local farming communities.

(10) In order to further the United States contribution to safe water and sanitation efforts, it is necessary to—

(A) expand foreign assistance capacity to address the challenges described in this section; and

(B) represent issues related to water and sanitation at the highest levels of United States foreign assistance and diplomatic deliberations, including those related to issues of global health, food security, the environment, global warming, and maternal and child mortality.

SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that the United States should help undertake a global effort to bring sustainable access to clean water and sanitation to poor people throughout the world.

SEC. 4. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this Act is—

(1) to enable first-time access to safe water and sanitation, on a sustainable basis, for 100,000,000 people in high priority countries (as designated under section 6(f) of the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005 (22 U.S.C. 2152h note) within 6 years of the date of enactment of this Act through direct funding, development activities, and partnerships; and

(2) to enhance the capacity of the United States Government to fully implement the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-121).

SEC. 5. DEVELOPING UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT CAPACITY.

Section 135 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2152h) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(e) SENIOR ADVISOR FOR WATER.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—To carry out the purposes of subsection (a), the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall designate a senior advisor to coordinate and conduct the activities described in this section and the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-121). The Advisor shall report directly to the Administrator and be known as the 'Senior Advisor for Water'. The initial Senior Advisor for Water shall be the individual serving as Water Team Leader as of the date of the enactment of the Senator Paul Simon Water for the World Act of 2010.

"(2) DUTIES.—The Advisor shall—

"(A) implement this section and the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-121);

"(B) develop and oversee implementation in high priority countries of country-specific water strategies and expertise, in coordination with appropriate United States Agency for International Development Mission Directors, to enable the goal of providing 100,000,000 additional people with sustainable access to safe water and sanitation through direct funding, development activities, and partnerships within 6 years of the date of the enactment of the Senator Paul Simon Water for the World Act of 2010; and

"(C) place primary emphasis on providing safe, affordable, and sustainable drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene in a manner that—

"(i) is consistent with sound water resource management principles; and

"(ii) utilizes such approaches as direct service provision, capacity building, institutional strengthening, regulatory reform, and partnership collaboration; and